From:
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 To:
 Council Clerk – Testimony

 Subject:
 Agenda Items 899-903 testimony

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Unsanctioned public camping must end now. It is tearing apart our community and now our state (as people are parting with the Oregon Democratic Party as a result). It must end now, not wait 18 months for enforcement.

Bring services TO the large sanctioned temporary encampments so that these camps can be placed away from residential and business areas. The fact is that, criminality around existing encampments (both sanctioned and unsanctioned) has made Portland residents distrustful of city management of camps. Several sanctioned camps in the cities in the past 18 months have been shut down by the city due to rampant crime and violence. Don't make city residents feel guilty and give them the NIMBY label when it is the City (Council, DA, Metro, Multnomah County) dysfunction that has allowed rampant crime to exist, and therefore the City that has compelled residents to resist incorporating unhoused residents into their residential areas and areas of employment. Instead, recognize your egregious missteps and construct these encampments away from business, arts & culture, and residential areas. The City needs to regain residents' trust. Once we see criminality held to account, we will happily incorporate sanctioned encampments and shelters into our communities. However, the City has so deeply failed us, that it is incumbent on the City first to prove itself before asking its residents and businesses to incorporate these shelters.

The City needs to be able to allocate as many funds as possible out of the Housing Bond and federal funds. The County and Metro have a disproportionate amount of power over determining where funds are invested.

Support the end of unsanctioned camping now!

Carolyn Piszczek